

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 4681

LONDON FOR SEITZ

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK, GH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO HOST GOVERNMENTS

REF: STATE 141940

1. AS PER REFTEL INSTRUCTIONS, BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO GHANA JAMES MELLON AND I MADE JOINT APPROACH TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ERIC OTOO JUNE 7. I MADE CLEAR THAT PAPER WE LEFT OTOO CONTAINING TALKING POINTS REPRESENTED VIEWS OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS.

2. DRAWING ON PARA 1 REFTEL, I STRESSED COMPLICATING EFFECTS OF LAST YEAR'S OAU SUMMIT RESOLUTION ON OUR NEGOTIATING EFFORTS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN FORTH-COMING MEETINGS OF LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND OAU HEADS OF GOVERNMENT, RESOLUTIONS WHICH APPEAR TO PUSH UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF WAR AS THE ONLY MEANS OF LIBERATION COULD BE AVOIDED. HIGH COMMISSIONER MELLON FORCEFULLY MADE POINT ORALLY THAT THE TIME WAS PAST WHEN MODERATE AFRICAN STATES COULD SUPPORT
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SUCH RESOLUTIONS PUBLICLY AND TELL US PRIVATELY LATER THAT THEY HOLD CONTRARY VIEWS. THIS TACTIC, HE STRESSED, WAS BECOMING DANGEROUS AND UNSUPPORTABLE, PARTICULARLY IN PRESENT POST-SHABA PERIOD. WE THEREFORE HOPED THAT THE GHANAIS WOULD HELP TO GET OAU ENDORSEMENT OF OUR PROPOSAL FOR ROUNDTABLE TALKS AND THEREFORE HELP BRING ALL THE PARTIES

TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

3. HIGH COMMISSIONER MELLON DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS WERE SOLIDLY BEHIND THE ANGLO-U.S. PROPOSALS AND SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSAL FOR ROUNDTABLE TALKS INVOLVING ALL THE PARTIES. OTOO SAID THAT GHANA HAD BEEN REPORTED AS BEING IN FAVOR OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT; THIS WAS NOT TRUE. HE LOOKED FORWARD TO HEARING AT KHARTOUM THAT THE FRONT LINE STATES AGREE THAT GHANA ALSO TOOK THE VIEW THAT THE ANGLO-U.S. PROPOSALS REPRESENTED THE BASIS FOR AN AGREED PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT WITH MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA GROWING WEARY, THERE WAS NOT NOW MUCH DOUBT THAT MANY AFRICAN STATES WERE LOOKING FOR ROUNDTABLE TALKS TO PRODUCE SOME REAL PROGRESS.

4. OTOO SAID GOG SHARED OUR VIEW THAT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT WAS CERTAINLY PREFERABLE TO A CONTINUATION--AND POSSIBLE INTENSIFICATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION--OF THE WORLD ARMED STRUGGLE. HE SAID HE AND HIS MFA COLLEAGUES WOULD STUDY OUR PAPER CAREFULLY, DISCUSS IT WITH COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI UPON HIS RETURN FROM NEW YORK AND GET BACK TO US. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US-UK EFFORTS THUS FAR AND NOTED CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT GHANA HAD ITSELF TRIED HARD, THOUGH WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO BRING THE ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALIST LEADERS TOGETHER. SMITH

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